

A short reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 13: 44-52

Jesus variously describes the wonders of the kingdom of heaven in terms we can easily understand: the mustard seed, the yeast in the bread, the treasure in the field, the priceless pearl, the huge haul of good fish. But Jesus makes it clear throughout his ministry that the kingdom of God is love itself, and the wonders we shall experience if we truly follow him are wonders of the soul, not riches of the world. If we fail to thrive and prosper spiritually it is because we fail to recognise what is truly the kingdom of God.

It is vital for us to recognise that love is the most powerful force that exists, stronger and mightier than the worst excesses of hatred. We may fear that in our present climate these excesses are dominant, but they are not. Love is continuing to thrive powerfully in the most unlikely places, feeding and housing the hungry and the homeless; reaching out to the sick and abandoned, showing itself in extraordinary acts of courage. That same love, every second of every day, promotes gentleness, kindness, compassion, patience, forgiveness. Vast numbers of people live their lives, patiently and humbly, in the service of others. Let us never forget the truth that Jesus taught us. Let us never descend into despair because hatred has a loud and threatening voice. Let us listen instead to the beautiful music of love which we can hear clearly when our souls are attuned to the truth of the kingdom of heaven.

'Our Father, who art in heaven. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

There is nothing stronger than the kingdom of heaven.

During this Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood we pray for those discerning a vocation to priesthood in the diocese of Derry, that they'll have the shrewdness, wisdom, and heart of Solomon.

Light the Fire: On August 6th Archbishop Eamon Martin will relight the fire on the hill of Slane that was lit by Saint Patrick many years ago. He will be joined by Sr. Briege Mc. Kenna, Dana and Fr. Pablo. There will be Mass, Rosary and a Eucharistic Healing Service on the day. This is a unique and monumental event. It is an opportunity for each of us to shine our light and witness to our faith in a joyful and spiritually uplifting celebration. If you would like details of a bus from your area please contact hillofslaneaugust6@gmail.com or phone May Carlin 07824642077 or Sandra Doherty 07849495833.

Youth 2000 Summer Festival - Join young people between 16 and 35 this August. The festival takes place in Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co Kildare from Thursday 10th August to Sunday 13th August 2023. The festival includes inspiring talks, music, prayer, concert, workshops, dramas, share groups, reconciliation and healing service and Mass. Donation only, buses going from all over Ireland. For more information and to book your place go to www.youth2000.ie

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Eileen Coyle
Aiveen McGowan*

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Kathleen Sheerin

May she rest in peace

Baptisms

We welcome as members of God's family:

*Esmáe Sophia Feeney-McGilloway
Ryiah Mollie McAdams
Luca Dean Kyle*

To book a Baptism contact the Parish Office 02871 262894

Sacrament of Marriage

We congratulate the couple who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

*Megan Meenan and Adam Clarke
Jasmine McGill and Conor Morrow*

Collection

Last week's collection: £5,534
Parish Development: £917

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you

Thank you

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

Smile Train: £20
Trócaire: £10, £20
St Vincent de Paul: £5, £5, £500
Hungry Children: £5, £5
Flowers: £50
Mary's Meals: £20

Readers for 5th/6th August

06.15 pm	Oran Gartland
07.30 pm	Claire O'Kane
09.30 am	Karen Harkin
11.00 am	Angela McCallion
12.30 pm	Marie Canning
07.00 pm	Anna Begley

Saint Vincent de Paul (St Eugene's Conference) would like to acknowledge with thanks a contribution of £500.

The Holy Family Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday 1st August at Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty, Derry. Starting with the holy rosary at 6.45pm, Mass at 7.15pm, and novena to St. Pio directly afterwards. The priest will bless each person directly after mass, with a first-class relic of St. Pio.

Job opportunities – School Liaison Coordinator Parish of Templemore: St Eugene’s & St Columba’s. 35 hours per week 1-year Fixed Term contract with possibility of extension. The Parish of Templemore: St Eugene’s and St Columba’s are seeking to recruit an individual to fulfil the role of School Liaison Coordinator. Under the guidance of the Pastoral Coordinator this person will work in the two city parishes that presently have five primary schools and three post primary schools. This is a full-time role for one year with the possibility of extension.

School Liaison Coordinator Parishes of Steelstown and Culmore. 35 hours per week 1-year Fixed Term contract with possibility of extension. The Parishes of Steelstown and Culmore are seeking to recruit an individual to fulfil the role of School Liaison Coordinator. Under the guidance of the Parish Priest/Administrator this person will work in the two parishes that presently have three primary schools and one post primary school. This is a full-time role for one year with the possibility of extension.

For application packs please contact: Bishop’s House, St Eugene’s Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone 02871262302 or email: recruitment@derrydiocese.org. Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop’s House, St Eugene’s Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to recruitment@derrydiocese.org no later than 4.30pm on 14th August 2023.

Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.

Apex Housing have one bedroom sheltered properties available in Glenbrook House and Brickfield Court which provide independent living for tenants over 60 years of age. If you are interested in applying, please contact Karen Collins on 02871 304800 for more information.

Sean Davis “4 Day Outdoor Summer Fun Soccer Academy” takes place at Templemore Sports Complex on Monday 7th to Thursday 10th August 2023. Boys and girls aged 5 to 18 years are welcome. Times: 10:00 am to 3.00 pm. For further details contact Sean Davis FAI, IFA, FA European A Licence Coach on telephone no. 028 71263044.

St Eugene’s Cathedral is monitored by CCTV cameras and by two live streaming cameras. Live streaming can be viewed online at www.churchservices.tv, www.watchmcnmedia or the parish website. The Diocese of Derry Privacy Notice is displayed on the parish website and Cathedral notice board, or you may obtain a copy from the Parish Office.

Safeguarding Notice: If you have any concerns with regard to the Safeguarding of children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at 07596500793 or at mariegormley@derrydiocese.org or contact the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ or PSNI (Police Service of **Northern Ireland**) **101** or **Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090** and ask for the **Duty Social Worker**.

Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Roni Zacharias